

Many thanks to all the participants in the Literacy Follow-up Group. Forty-two (42) people attended one or more of the meetings held from July to October! As you review the decisions made by the October 24 participants, please note where you can support and contribute to the 2007 countywide literacy efforts to increase awareness, promote services and create collaborations. Your talents, creative energy and continued participation are greatly appreciated.

Sarasota County Literacy Summit Mission

Increase awareness

Promote services

Create collaborations

- Increase community awareness of literacy needs in Sarasota County
- Increase community engagement in solution of the literacy needs by promoting existing literacy services and exploring new service avenues
- Increase effective delivery of literacy services by creating countywide coordination and collaboration of service agencies

On October 24, participants met to determine countywide literacy priorities for the 2007 calendar year. They reviewed the Mission Statement from the July meeting and the recommendations/proposals from the September meeting.

Decisions for 2007 countywide literacy focus include:

1. Future meeting dates:

No general meeting of the Literacy Summit Follow-Up Group will be held in November and December. Future meetings will focus on specific topics and notice will be sent to all Literacy Summit participants.

2. Data Collection:

It was agreed that the Data Collection initiative was too large an endeavor for the Literacy Summit Follow-up Group. A member of the Data Gathering task force group agreed to continue this discussion with other data-gathering groups in the county.

3. Marketing/ Public Relations and Organizational Literacy:

It was agreed that the Marketing/Public Relations and the Organizational Literacy groups be combined to provide a focused effort promoting our mission to increase awareness, promote services and create collaborations.

4. *Countywide Event:*

It was agreed that a countywide literacy event could be too large an effort for the Literacy Summit Follow-up Group to plan at this time. Since several organizations are already involved in the planning of the *Beyond the Book* countywide initiative to occur in 2007, it was agreed that the marketing group consider strategies to increase awareness and promote literacy services that could be included in the promotion of the *Beyond the Book* initiative.

5. *Sarasota County Literacy Services Database:*

The Literacy Council of Sarasota, Inc. is spearheading an effort to build a comprehensive database of information on literacy programs countywide in order to produce a web-based directory of these programs. This listing will be posted on the Literacy Council's website and on the Sarasota County library website. It may also serve as the basis for a print version in the future.

6. *Conversational English/Other Language Exchange:*

Conexiones: Come and practice conversation! Exchange 30 minutes of your native language for 30 minutes of practice with a native English speaker. The Selby Library and the Spanish Department at New College are offering a conversational English/Other Language Exchange at Selby Library.

7. *Every Child Ready to Read Workshops:*

Sarasota County Libraries, Born to Read, and an interested Literacy Summit participant are working together to offer Reading Workshops for families with children from birth to three years. The workshops will provide parents with information from the *Every Child Ready to Read* curriculum that explains the six pre-reading skills children can begin learning from birth.

The partners plan to offer a simple meal before the presentation and will provide childcare for the children. A complete workshop will be divided into three sessions and each session will last for 30 minutes. Participation will be limited to 25 families per workshop. The partners are currently in the planning stages and have targeted January 2007 for the first workshop.

8. *Organizational Communication:*

It was noted that continued communication between and among Literacy Summit participants was important.

REGARDS TO EVERYONE

WORKING TOGETHER TO PROMOTE LITERACY IN SARASOTA COUNTY